

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
  INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 DHA-02 CU-02 IO-13 ACDA-07  
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R 170911Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2895

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1035

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, CSCE, BU, OVIP (ZHIVKOVA, LYUDMILLA)  
SUBJECT: ARMITAGE/TSVETKOV CONVERSATIONS, SUBJECTS OTHER THAN THE  
MAREV CASE

REF: A) SOFIA 1030; B) SOFIA 0465; C) SOFIA 1003; D) STATE 107924

1. GREATER PART OF MAY 16 MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY FOREIGN  
MINISTER TSVETKOV AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE WAS  
TAKEN UP BY DISCUSSIONS EAST-WEST RELATIONS, TREND OF US-  
BULGARIAN RELATIONS, AND CSCE. ZHIVKOVA VISIT WAS ALSO  
DISCUSSED. PRESENT ON BULGARIAN SIDE WERE ALSO AMB. CHAVDAR  
DAMYANOV (HEAD OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPT), STEFAN STAIKOV  
(MFA SPECIALIST ON CSCE), ACTING HEAD OF FOURTH DEPT BUDIN  
KEREMIDAROV, AND AMERICAN DESK OFFICER ASEN YANKOV. ARMITAGE  
GAVE OUTLINE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POSTURE ON  
RFISARMAMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS, WHICH  
WAS VISIBLY APPRECIATED BY TSVETKOV AND HELPED TO SET THE  
STAGE FOR THE DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL MATTERS.

2. ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE HELSINKI CONTEXT, TSVETKOV USED A  
FORMULATION WHICH WENT SOMEWHAT BEYOND WHAT WE HAVE REPORTED  
HIM SAYING TO BRITISH AMBASSADOR (REF B). HE SAID "ANY  
ATTEMPT TO GIVE EXTERNAL ADVICE AS TO HOW GOVERNMENTS SHOULD  
SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS GOES BEYOND THE FRAMEWORK OF  
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FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND FRUSTRATES THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTER-  
STATE RELATIONS. THE WAY IN WHICH THIS QUESTION IS FORMU-  
LATED (PRESUMABLY BY US) WOULD GIVE EVERY GOVERNMENT THE  
RIGHT TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY."  
ARMITAGE HAD ALREADY EARLIER STATED CLEARLY THAT IN GIVING  
EXPRESSION TO OUR DEEPLY HELD BELIEFS WE ARE IN NO WAY TRYING  
TO UNDERMINE ANY OTHER SYSTEM, THAT CRITICISMS ALSO APPLY

TO SHORTCOMINGS IN OUR OWN SOCIETY, AND THAT WE OPERATE FROM ASSUMPTION NEITHER SIDE IS PREPARED TO YIELD ITS IDEOLOGICAL POSITION.

3. MORE SPECIFICALLY ON DIVIDED FAMILIES, BOTH ARMITAGE AND IN HIS SEPARATE CONVERSATION ON MAREV CASE THE AMBASSADOR (SEPTEL) ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOB HAS INDEED SOLVED BULK OF PENDING CASES. THE POINT WAS MADE THAT IT IS ALL THE MORE DEPLORABLE THAT PUBLIC ATTENTION IS FOCUSSED ON ONE CASE, WHICH IN AMERICAN OPINION SEEMS TO VITIATE THE GOOD WORK DONE BY GOB IN IMPLEMENTING PROMISES MADE BY PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV. IN THIS CONNECTION TSVETKOV DEFINED GOB POLICY AS CALLING FOR SETTLEMENT OF ALL DIVIDED FAMILY CASES EXCEPT (A) THOSE WHERE BULGARIAN CITIZEN WOULD HAVE TO BE URGED TO DEPART; AND (B) "WHERE A BULGARIAN RESIDING IN THE RESPECTIVE FOREIGN COUNTRY UNDER VARIOUS PRETEXTS HAS ORGANIZED ANTI-BULGARIAN ACTIVITIES."

4. RE ZHIVKOVA VISIT, TSVETKOV SAID (BUT DID NOT PURSUE THE POINT) THAT "SINCE SHE IS MEMBER OF CABINET WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE INVITATION FROM MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SO THAT IT WILL BE AN OFFICIAL VISIT." HE SAID NOTE AND ACCOMPANYING LETTERS (REF C) HAD BEEN RECEIVED AND FORWARDED TO MRS. ZHIVKOVA FOR HER CONSIDERATION. HE WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER MENTION OF STATE DEPARTMENT BEING PREPARED TO FACILITATE VISITS OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON MEANT THAT ONLY "ASSISTANCE WOULD BE GIVEN BY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS" OR THAT USG WAS TAKING ON HOSTSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES. HE SAID GOB ANXIOUS THAT INVITATION SHOULD COME FROM USG. ARMITAGE SAID UNEQUIVOCAL

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CALLY THAT INVITATION IS FROM USG, AND IT IS OFFICIAL, THERE NEED BE NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. USG (DEPT) WOULD WORK DIRECTLY WITH BULGARIAN EMBASSY TO WORK OUT ZHIVKOVA PROGRAM.

5. COMMENT ON PARA 4. ON OCCASION OF LUNCH SUBSEQUENTLY GIVEN BY TSVETKOV FOR ARMITAGE, WE INQUIRED FROM DAMYANOV IF THERE WAS ANY REAL PROBLEM WITH OUR LETTER OF INVITATION WHICH SHOULD HAVE MADE CLEAR OFFICIAL NATURE OF HER VISIT. ARMITAGE OFFERED TO REVIEW WITH DAMYANOV HOW VISIT OF USSR MINISTER OF CULTURE FURTSEVA HAD BEEN HANDLED; BUT DAMYANOV SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND DID NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANY PROBLEM. WE BELIEVE REF D CLARIFIES THE MATTER AND THAT IN PROCESS OF DISCUSSING SCHEDULE OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON WE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THINGS IN AMERICA DON'T WORK QUITE THE WAY THEY DO IN BULGARIA.  
HERZ

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## Message Attributes

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